

49. The tobacco product of claim 40 which is substantially free of organic solvent used to extract expanded organic materials.

50. The tobacco product of claim 40, which is a product selected from the group consisting of cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, and tobacco-containing gum and lozenges.

51. A process for reducing the amount or preventing the formation of nitrosamines in a tobacco plant, the process comprising heating uncured tobacco with convection in an environment substantially free of combustion exhaust gases while the tobacco is in a state susceptible to having formation of said at least one nitrosamine arrested, for a time sufficient to reduce nitrosamine content or to prevent formation of said at least one nitrosamine.

52. A process for reducing the amount or preventing the formation of nitrosamines in a tobacco plant, the process comprising heating uncured tobacco with convection in a substantially non-anaerobic environment while the tobacco is in a state susceptible to having formation of said at least one nitrosamine arrested, for a time sufficient to reduce nitrosamine content or to prevent formation of said at least one nitrosamine.

REMARKS

Original claims 1-19 and 21-28 and new claims 29-52 are pending. Early and favorable examination of claims 1-19 and 21-52 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: February 15, 2000

By: Paul M. Rivard
Paul M. Rivard
Registration No. 43,446

Eleventh Floor
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-4597
(202) 508-9100